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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Twelfth session
25-29 July 1994
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

International Day of Indigenous People

Note by the secretariat

1. In its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 entitled "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", the General Assembly decided that, beginning in the first year of the Decade, one day of every year shall be observed as the International Day of Indigenous People. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights, at its fiftieth session, to invite the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to identify at its twelfth session an appropriate date for this purpose.

2. Subsequently, in its resolution 1994/26 of 4 March 1994, the Commission on Human Rights invited the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to propose at its next session an appropriate date for one day every year to be observed as the International Day of Indigenous People, following consultations with indigenous representatives.

3. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolutions, the secretariat sent out a letter, dated 15 April 1994, requesting indigenous people to submit their views about an appropriate date for the International Day of Indigenous People. Any comments received on this matter will be submitted as an addendum to this note.

4. Guidelines for international years and decades are contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980. The guidelines establish criteria for the subject of international years and decades. However, there is no set of criteria available to guide the process of determining an appropriate date for an international day. The following considerations which might be useful in determining an appropriate date may be borne in mind:

(a) The reason for selecting a particular date should be consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) The date chosen should be acceptable to all interested parties and be of universal symbolism, free of any specific national or regional connotations;

(c) It should not coincide with any other international day, or fall within any international weeks (see annex), since this would limit its impact.

Annex

ANNUAL DAYS AND WEEKS

8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Beginning 21 March	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
22 March	World Day for Water
23 March	World Meteorological Day
7 April	World Health Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
15 May	International Day of Families
17 May	World Telecommunication Day
31 May	No-Tobacco Day
5 June	World Environment Day
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
11 July	World Population Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
Third Tuesday of September	International Day of Peace
During the last week of September	World Maritime Day
1 October	International Day for the Elderly
First Monday of October	World Habitat Day
9 October	World Post Day
Second Wednesday of October	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day; and World Development Information Day
24-30 October	Disarmament Week
Week of 11 November	International Week of Science and Peace
20 November	African Industrialization Day; and Universal Children's Day (varies per year)
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
1 December	World AIDS Day
3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons
5 December	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
10 December	Human Rights Day